

COVERAGE OF THERAPEUTIC ASSISTANTS WITHIN EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to articulate the roles and responsibilities of the Therapy Assistant providing direct services within certified Massachusetts Early Intervention programs. Early Intervention services may be provided by qualified personnel who hold current licensure from the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Allied Health Professions as an Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA), Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA); or from the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Speech Language Pathology/Audiology as a Speech Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA). The following is designed to ensure consistent interpretation of services that may be provided, standards and regulations which must be observed and services not allowed under this agreement.

Therapy Assistants working in certified Massachusetts Early Intervention programs will:

- Hold current licensure from the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Allied Health Professions or the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Speech/Language Pathology/Audiology.
- Provide therapy using a treatment plan/IFSP developed by a licensed therapist who has completed an evaluation/assessment of the child.
- Comply with all requirements of the Board of Registration for supervision, documentation, billing and scope of practice rules and regulations.

Therapy Assistants working in certified Massachusetts Early Intervention Programs will not:

- Represent themselves as therapists
- Evaluate a child
- Interpret evaluation results
- Initiate or alter a treatment plan/IFSP
- Respond to inquiries about a child's prognosis (will refer to the supervising therapist)
- Participate in case conferences/IFSP meetings without the prior knowledge and approval of the supervising therapist

Level of Supervision:

Level of supervision provided and numbers of children to be served by COTAs, PTAs and SLPAs will be determined by licensure regulations and national industry standards presently recognized by insurers. Any additional supervision will be determined by the employer based on, but not limited to, the following:

- More frequent supervision for less experienced assistants
The number of assistants a single therapist can effectively supervise